

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action dated December 21, 2010. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 9-17 and 19 are pending in the Application.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5 and 17 are allowable.

In the Final Office action, rejections to the claims are maintained which are respectfully traversed. However, in the interest of expediting consideration and allowance of the pending claims, the Applicants have elected to amend claims 1, 12 and 15 to include the subject matter indicated as allowable. Applicants furthermore reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.


It is respectfully submitted that these amendments to the claims present no new issues requiring further search as the subject matter presented by the amended claims is provided in previously presented allowable claims. No new matter is added by these amendments which place the claims in better condition for allowance and/or consolidate and reduce issues that may be pending thereafter for appeal. Accordingly, consideration and entrance of the amendments is respectfully requested. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter canceled herein in this and/or continuing applications.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 12 and 15 are allowable and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2, 4, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19 depend from one of the independent claims and accordingly are allowable for at least the same reasons as the respective independent claims, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

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